creased considerably and plying of DTC Buses on Rural Area Routes decreased;

(b) what is the Schedule of Route No. 509, alongwith the number of missed trips per day during the last six months;

(c) whether Government propose to improve the DTC Bus services on all rural area routes in general and on Route No. 509 in particular because the 'Indira Gandhi National Open University' is situated on this Route;

(d) whether Government propose to start one more DTC Bus Route from Maidan Garhi, New Delhi-68 to New Delhi Railway Station touching Mehrauli and Central Secretariat; and

(e) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The details are as under:—

Average scheduled trips per day —78

Average missed trips per day —9

(c) to (e) There is on proposal to increase DTC fleet on account of financial constraints. Hence, it will not be possible for DTC to introduce any new route.

Cracks in pillars of Kaliabhoomoora Bridge in Assam

3975. SHRI BHADRESWAR BURAGOHAIN: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the cracks in one pair of pillars of Kaliabhoomoora Bridge across Brahmaputra in Assam; and

(b) if so, whether any emergency steps have been taken by Government to prevent further damage to the bridge?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) No, Sir. There is no report of any cracks in any of the piers of Kaliabhoomoora bridge across Brahamputra in Assam.

(b) Does not arise.

National Highways in Rajasthan

3976. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether keeping in view that present day traffic on Jaipur-Ajmer section 5 at par with the traffic on Delhi-Jaipur Section; whether Government propose to include this road (130 kms) section under 'Express Highway System', on priority basis; if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(b) what are the other roads which the Rajasthan Government had requested the Central Government for declaring as National Highways, and whether any one of them has been approved so far; and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) Against the requirement of Rs. 7,830 crores projected for Central Sector Roads Programmes during the 8th Plan, Planning Commission have provided an outlay of only Rs. 2600 crores. The major portion of this outlay will be utilised to take care of various ongoing works on the existing National Highways. Keeping in view the huge cost involved in the development of expressways and general paucity of funds, it is too early to indicate whether any road including the road in question, could be considered for inclusion in the National Expressway System during the 8th Plan period.

(b) Rajasthan Government have proposed five roads for declaration as National Highways during the 8th Plan as per the Statement attached (*See* below) Due to paucity of funds as explained in part (a), it is too early to indicate any decision about new National Highways in any State including Rajasthan in the 8th Plan.